

THE  
**FUTURE  
OF  
AMERICA'S  
NATIONAL  
PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Canyonlands National Park

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



**Site:** CANY

**Year:** 2007

**Vision Statement**

Canyonlands National Park preserves a wilderness of rock at the heart of the Colorado Plateau. Water and gravity have been the prime architects of the land, cutting flat layers of sedimentary rock into hundreds of canyons, mesas, fins, and spires, surrounding the converging canyons of the Green and Colorado rivers. Canyonlands is primordial, undeveloped, and characterized by challenging travel within it and by the self-sufficiency it demands of its visitors. Its roads are mostly unpaved, its trails primitive, its rivers free-flowing.

Throughout the next decade, our goals will be to maintain and restore Canyonlands' timeless, wild character while supporting outstanding visitor experiences associated with it. In part, that will require restoration of disturbed lands, management of invasive species, and thoughtful management of roads, trails, buildings and utilities. It will require improving the condition of some key assets to support visitation, while significantly changing others in order to reduce the environmental impacts of our own operations. These efforts will be displayed and described to the public as case studies in environmental stewardship.

At the same time, we will forge new connections with local communities, in all their diversity, so that the park's nearest neighbors will discover and enjoy what the park offers them, and so that the park will become an enriching part of local peoples' lives. By the end of the decade, routine use of the park by local residents will increase 5-fold, and local residents will form the majority of a large and vigorous new park volunteer force.

We will increase our support for collaborative interagency and community visitor centers, public information programs, and web-based area recreation information, to reach the widest audience with park and regional recreation information. We will significantly increase our repertoire of interpretive programs, making full use of new methods and technologies to enhance public understanding.

We will support and grow our current Canyon Country Outdoor Education program, which is a very strong current partner in curriculum based education for schools in Grand and San Juan counties, and we will re-establish the Canyon Country Conservation corps for local youth, enabling them to experience parks and the work of parks firsthand.

**Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager**

Kate Cannon, Superintendent

Site: CANY

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase front-line staffing to assist and inform visitors, enhance their understanding of the park, provide a safer park experience, and ensure that key assets are well maintained to support visitors and staff.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CANY

STEWARDSHIP

☒ Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

☒ Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

Stabilize 6 historic structures.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

As tamarisk fade from the landscape, we will protect and restore relict native plant sites, key recreational sites, and threatened cultural sites, and support widespread re-establishment of native plant and animal communities throughout the park where tamarisk has been prevalent.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

Maintain park visitor use facilities and support infrastructure in good to excellent condition. Targeted work on high priority assets includes rehabilitation of trails parkwide, rehabilitation of the Island in the Sky Visitor Center, rehabilitation of campgrounds and picnic areas, and replacement of audio-visual equipment in visitor centers parkwide.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CANY

ENVIRONMENT

☒ Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

☒ Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

Continue to improve and support the existing photo voltaic system at Hans Flat, and consider solar alternatives for the Needles district. Display and describe these sites as case studies in environmental stewardship. Increase the local water collection capability at Hans Flat, reducing the need to haul water long distances to support the operation there.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CANY

RECREATION

☒ Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

☒ Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

Rehabilitate 20 miles of existing primitive trails with the park, and increase the number and variety of accessible trails and sites so that a full array of park experiences are available to all.

☒ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Increase support for existing interagency and community visitor information centers, for related public information programs, and for web-based area recreation information resources.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CANY

RECREATION

☒ Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

☒ Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Increase the number of visitors that attend programs, including ranger-facilitated school programs, by 30% in the next 5 years, by expanding staffing at the field level in interpretive functions, and by increasing our Canyon Country Outdoor Education program.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CANY

EDUCATION

☒ Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Building on our existing Canyon Country Outdoor Education program, we will work with area schools to expand the program beyond the sixth grade, and to increase the opportunities for field trips for lower grades.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CANY

EDUCATION

☒ Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

☒ Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

In the next 5 years, expand our current web site, adding new elements and taking advantage of technological advances to double the number of hits.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: CANY

EDUCATION

☒ Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

☒ Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Expand the current Discovery Pack program to all districts in the park, doubling the number of children and families engaged in the program.

☐ The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS